The percentage share of consumption of electricity in domestic sector has increased from 18.1% in 1996-97 to 21.3% (AP) in 2001-02 whereas, it has decreased in agricultural sector from 30.8% in 1996-97 to 28.8% (AP) in 2001-02. However, the percentage share of consumption of electricity in domestic and agricultural sectors taken together is likely to increase from a level of 48.9% in 1996-97 to 50.1% (AP) in 2001-02. The percentage share of industrial consumption has decreased from 32.9% in 1996-97 to 29.2% in 2001-02.

(c) Average tariff rates for All India (as applicable in various SEBs/ Electricity Departments) for sale of electricity for Industrial, Agricultural and Domestic sectors during the year 2001-02 (AP) were 378.67, 41.56 and 195.62 paise/kwh respectively.

Holding courts in prisons

*356. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Police has recommended that Magistrates should hold courts in the prison itself to obviate the problems faced by Delhi Police while transferring undertrials to courts;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accept the recommendation made by Delhi Police;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are considering alternate proposals on dispersing speedy justice to the undertrials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Delhi Police have made a proposal for holding trials in respect of certain under-trial involved in offences connected with the Explosive substances Act, Prevention of Terrorism Act, etc. at the jail premises itself. The matter has been considered by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and referred to the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for a decision.

(d) In order to speed up the trial in cases of under-trial prisoners, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India had, in his letter dated

29th November, 1999 addressed to the Chief Justices of the High Courts, suggested that every Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the area, in which a District jail falls, might hold his court once or twice in a month, depending upon the workload, in jail to take up the cases of those under-trial prisoners who are involved in petty offences.

Besides, on the basis of the recommendation made by the 11th Finance Commission, the setting up of 1150 Fast Track Courts in different parts of the country has so far been notified, of which 737 have started functioning. These Fast track Courts deal with long pending cases including the cases of under-trials.

Terrorist Activities in Konkan Coast

*357. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Indian Express' dated 9th July, 2002, under the caption "Konkan coast: 600-km invitation to terror";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news article regarding growing number of terrorist activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per reports, a Lebanese ship, "Al Murtada" was found drifting off the Ratnagiri coast in Maharashtra on 3rd July, 2002. Two AK-47 rifles alongwith some ammunition were recovered from the ship. There was no crew on board. Investigations so far do not show any evidence that the ship had connections with any terrorist\militant organization or activity. The Government is conscious of the need to strengthen surveillance and patrolling arrangements along India's coastline in view of its vulnerability to illegal cross border activities. The coastal States and Union Territory Administrations have accordingly been advised to prepare a plan of action in this regard.